

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Ordinance (1) authorizing an amendment to a sub-grantee agreement with the Dispute Resolution Center of Kitsap County, as lead fiscal agent for Resolution Washington, to accept an additional \$140,511.02 in grant funding from the Washington State Department of Commerce (under state contract S22-31445-001), for staffing and administrative costs at the Bellevue Conflict Resolution Center during state fiscal year 2022 to 2023; and (2) amending the 2021-2022 Operating Grants, Donations and Special Reserves Fund to increase the appropriation by \$79,397.

Michael Kattermann, Director, 452-6191

Mike McCormick Huentelman, Assistant Director, 452-4089

Marci McReynolds, Conflict Resolution Center Manager, 452-5288

Community Development

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Ordinance authorizes an amendment to a sub-grantee agreement with the Dispute Resolution Center (DRC) of Kitsap County, previously executed on or about September 13, 2021 pursuant to Ordinance No. 6602, to accept additional grant funding to support Bellevue Conflict Resolution Center staffing and administrative costs for the time period between July 2022 and June 2023. This Ordinance also amends the 2021-2022 Operating Grants, Donations, and Special Reserves Fund to facilitate expenditures during this budget year.

RECOMMENDATION

Move to adopt Ordinance No. 6685

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

The mission of the Bellevue Conflict Resolution Center (BCRC) is “to increase the problem-solving capacity of Bellevue’s community.” This is accomplished by providing conflict resolution services that address community disputes between neighbors, businesses, and public entities. Services provided are confidential, voluntary, and free, available to people who live, work, or go to school in Bellevue, and are provided by staff and trained volunteers from the community.

The BCRC is a dispute resolution center formed under Chapter 7.75 of the Revised Code of Washington to provide equal access to justice; and it is an active, funded member of Resolution Washington, a consortium of 22 other dispute resolution centers. Volunteers are certified according to the standards of the Uniform Mediation Act.

In April 2021, the Washington State legislature passed E2SSB 5160. A part of this legislation mandates that dispute resolution centers across the state provide the Eviction Resolution Pilot Program (ERPP) to negotiate repayment plans between landlords and tenants as a prerequisite (or alternative) to landlords filing unlawful detainer suits against tenants. Upon completion of good faith negotiations, landlords and tenants are provided with a Certificate of Participation.

Through the ERPP, trained conciliators provide Eviction Resolution Services (ERS) to help with:

- Free conflict coaching to help landlords and tenants resolve eviction-related issues.
- Conciliating financial disputes that put tenants at risk of losing their rental housing.
- Facilitating negotiations between tenants and landlords, to develop reasonable arrangements for unpaid rent.
- Coordinating rental assistance (when available).
- Sharing referral and resource information.
- Providing a Certificate of Participation once negotiation has ended to both landlord and tenant.

The BCRC will not:

- Assist those tenants or landlords outside Bellevue or Kirkland
- Offer legal advice or representation
- Offer rental assistance directly

On September 13, 2021, pursuant to Ordinance No. 6602, the City Council approved a capacity grant for the BCRC to accept \$209,438.90 from the Washington State Department of Commerce (pursuant to state grant S22-31445-001). Commerce distributes the money through Resolution Washington and its fiscal agent – the Dispute Resolution Center for Kitsap County. The grant amount spans two fiscal years, 2021-2022 and 2022-2023, amounting to an estimated \$104,719.98 per year.

Pursuant to the grant, “funding for Year 2 will be determined in consultation with the Resolution Washington (RW) Executive Committee and approved by the RW membership, based on the number of eligible DRCs and the funding level for statewide programs. Proposed funding levels for Year 2 are anticipated to be published no later than July 15, 2022.”

Since execution of the agreement referenced above, Kitsap County DRC has advised the BRC has been awarded \$245,231 for the contract period of July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023, an increase of \$140,511.02 over the prior award. The proposed amendment memorializes this increased award in grant funding.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

Bellevue City Code 4.28.200 requires Council approval to execute grant contracts that exceed \$90,000.

The capacity grant is consistent with the following policies:

Neighborhood Element of the Comprehensive Plan:

N-7. Support the capacity of local neighborhood communities to actively engage and respond to changing internal neighborhood needs and external stresses.

N-11. Enable neighborhood-tailored solutions to localized issues while ensuring that they meet Citywide responsibilities.

Fiscal Impact

This action increases the available funding for the 2022-2023 by \$140,511.02 for a total amount of \$245,231. This action will also allow \$79,397 of this increased amount to be expended this year, with the remainder being appropriated during the 2023-2024 budget cycle.

OPTIONS

1. Adopt the Ordinance authorizing an amendment to a sub-grantee agreement with the Dispute Resolution Center of Kitsap County, as lead fiscal agent for Resolution Washington, to accept an additional \$140,511.02 in grant funding from the Washington State Department of Commerce (under state contract S22-31445-001), for staffing and administrative costs at the Bellevue Conflict Resolution Center during state fiscal year 2022 to 2023; and (2) amending the 2021-2022 Operating Grants, Donations and Special Reserves Fund to increase the appropriation by \$79,397.
2. Do not adopt the Ordinance and provide alternative direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. First Amendment to Capacity Sub-Agreement
Proposed Ordinance No. 6685

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

Capacity Sub-Agreement
Ordinance No. 6602